

S E C R E T

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FIELD INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY: USSR (Kazakh SSR)

REPORT

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SUBJECT: Polygamy in the Kazakh SSR

DATE OF

DATE OF REPORT: 31 August 1956

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REFERENCES:

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

1. Polygamy is common practice and legal among Kazakhs in the Kazakh SSR

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2. [redacted] workers in the Karaganda below surface coalmine were mostly Kazakhs.

One of them was legally married to four wives who lived with him

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[redacted] Others had three or two wives, depending on their financial resources.

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3. ✓ Kazakh women were kept in semi-slavery. Custom required that they always walk behind their husband in public places, that they leave the room when visitors were entertained and that they could not object when being divorced and sold by their husbands. Young Kazakh girls were often kidnapped in the streets.

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[redacted] a rich Kazakh stopped his car in front of a well where a young girl was pouring water into a bucket. He forced her into his car and disappeared.

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Two days later [redacted] he had contacted the girl's father and, after some bartering, had paid the girl's purchasing price.

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